

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A software-update management system comprising:
2 an input for receiving a request for an update chronology for a
3 target update;
4 an interface for retrieving succession data from a set of
5 databases, said databases having a record for each update, each
6 record indicating all updates that the associated update directly
7 supercedes; and
8 an update chronology generator for generating an update
9 chronology for said target update by accessing the records for said
10 target update and each update indicated by the record for said
11 target update as being directly superceded by said target update,
12 said generator being coupled to said input and to said interface.
- 1 2. An update management system as recited in Claim 1 wherein
2 said update chronology generator further accesses records for each
3 update succeeding said target update, said update chronology
4 further indicating all updates succeeding said target update directly
5 or indirectly, the database record for each update indicating any
6 updates directly superceding the respective update.
- 1 3. An update management system as recited in Claims 1 wherein
2 said update chronology is an update family tree.
- 1 4. An update management system as recited in Claims 1 wherein
2 each record indicates an introduction date for the respective
3 update, said update chronology being a succession of update states.
- 1 5. An update management system as recited in Claim 1 through
2 A4 further comprising said update database.

1 6. A method of generating an update history, said method
2 comprising:

3 a) receiving a request for an update chronology for a target
4 update;

5 b) accessing a record for said target update in a database, said
6 record indicating updates directly superceded by said target update;

7 c) accessing records for said updates directly superceded by said
8 target update to determine updates indirectly superceded by said
9 target update; and

10 d) generating an update chronology from said records, said
11 update chronology indicating updates directly and indirectly
12 superceded by said target update

1 7. A method as recited in Claim 6 wherein said records identify
2 an update, if any, superceding the respective update, step c) further
3 involving accessing the record of any update indicated as directly
4 succeeding said target update, said update chronology indicating
5 updates directly and indirectly superceding said target update.

1 8. A method as recited in Claims 6 wherein said update
2 chronology is an update family tree.

1 9. A method as recited in Claims 6 wherein each update record
2 indicates an introduction date for the respective update, said
3 update chronology is a succession of update states.